

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 RSR-01 /140 W
----- 011677

R 231053 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9616

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS LAGOS 4121

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS/: PGOV, NI

SUBJ: CIVILIAN RULE PROMISED FOR 1976

1. FMG COMMISSIONER FOR ESTABLISHMENTS MAJOR GENERAL HASSAN KATSINA AFFIRMED TO PRESS MAY 22 THAT NIGERIA'S PRESENT MILITARY RULERS REMAIN DETERMINED TO HAND OVER POWER TO CIVILIAN REGIME IN 1976 AS PROMISED BY GENERAL GOWON THREE YEARS AGO.

2. KATSINA WAS SPEAKING SHORTLY BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR BUENOS AIRES TO REPRESENT FMG AT CEREMONIES MARKING TRANSITION FROM MILITARY TO CIVILIAN RULE IN ARGENTINA. HE SAID HIS ATTENDANCE AT SUCH CEREMONIES SHOULD REASSURE "SKEPTICS" WHO HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY EXPRESSING DOUBTS ABOUT INTENTIONS OF NIGERIAN MILITARY LEADERS TO HAND OVER POWER.

3. KATSINA IS CARRYING "GOODWILL MESSAGE" FROM GOWON TO NEW ARGENTINIAN PRESIDENT CAMPORA.

4. COMMENT: KATSINA'S STATEMENT IS MOST UNQUALIFIED REITERATION TO DATE OF 1976 HANDOVER PLEDGE MADE BY GOWON IN HIS OCTOBER 1 SPEECH IN 1970. NEVERTHELESS,
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" SKEPTICS" MENTIONED BY KATSINA MAY REMAIN UNCONVINCED
PENDING FURTHER MONEMENT IN NINE POINTS CITED IN SAME
ADDRESS AS PREREQUISITES FOR TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN RULE.
CROSBY

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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